

May 19, 1975

SENATOR KOCH: I would hope that we would stay away from that, yes.

SENATOR KELLY: Thank you very much Senator Koch. I need a more concise determination of what Land and Water Conservation Funds amounts to. We in Nebraska, particularly as a water short state, have got to be extremely careful on what we spend water conservation funds for. It's imparative in my opinion that funds of this nature be spent for agricultural production, not for educational uses nor park uses. If I have a misunderstanding of what Land and Water Conservation Fund is, in order for me to support this bill I'll have to have a different opinion than I have now. The idea of the Gifford properties being available for educational pursuits in our metropolitan city is extremely attractive to me, but in no way using Land and Water Conservation Funds.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. President, members of the body. I wonder if Senator Koch would yield to a question. Senator Koch, this bill has made the rounds. The NRD has had its chance. The State Board of Education Lands have had a chance, now the Game and Parks gets theirs. Whose next?

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Rasmussen, when I introduced this bill originally this was just about the form it was introduced in, except I was attempting to get all the money out of the General Funds of the State of Nebraska. I don't believe that I have altered the original bill with the exception of instead of asking for the money from the General Fund, I'm saying let us try to get it out of federal monies with some matching at the local level.

(Senator Savage presiding)

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Thank you Mr. President, colleagues. I wanted to address a question that Senator Kelly raised. He mentioned the Land and Water Conservation Act. That Act is the recreation development and land purchased for recreation fund that is controlled by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, a federal agency that's a part of the Department of the Interior. The money in the Land and Water Conservation Act comes primarily from sources like the sale of the Golden Eagle Passbook for entrance in national parks and other national areas. It is to be used exclusively for the purchase or development of park land. Part of that money ... An amount goes to each state. Part of the money that goes to each state is given to a state agency for statewide park purchase or development purposes. A specified part of the Land and Water Conservation Act Fund then also goes to political subdivisions. In Nebraska the 50% grant for local governments through BOR is matched with 25% from state agencies. The localities pick up the other 25%. Whether or not Senator Koch's proposal has to do with the statewide portion of the BOR money or the local portion, I do not know. The title of the program is very confusing, Land and Water Conservation Act. Take my word for it, it's strictly for the